

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, December 2, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(499) In the matter of WORLDCOM DBA WILTEL - Docket N96.11.182; On November 6, 1996, WorldCom, Inc. dba Wiltel Network Services filed tariff revisions to their Montana Price List No. 1. This filing reflects an increase in the Per Call Surcharge; Changes in the Base Rates; and Expands the description of the Casual Call by referring to them as LEC Billed Measure Service. This is being done to allow the conversion of all WilTel traffic to the combined WorldCom, Inc. Billing system. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the tariff revisions in Price List No. 1. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(500) In the matter of WORLDCOM, INC. DBA LDDS WORLDCOM - Docket N96.11.190; On November 14, 1996, WorldCom, Inc. dba LDDS WorldCom filed tariff revisions to their Montana Price List Tariff. This filing expands the description of the Casual Call to clarify the service and changing the name to LEC Billed Measure Service. Commissioner Fisher moved to approve the tariff revisions. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(501) In the matter of US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N95.10.155; On November 18, 1996, US West Communications filed revised lot fees for the Timberline Project Area in the Bozeman exchange. The revised fees reflect the company's lower-than-anticipated costs on this project. Commissioner Fisher moved to approve the revised lot fees. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(502) In the matter of NORTHWESTERN TELEPHONE SYSTEMS - Docket N96.11.185; On November 13, 1996, PTI Communications submitted a filing to adjust charges for additional engineering and labor services. The Company feels these charges more accurately reflect the current costs associated with providing these services. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the filing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed. Commissioners McCaffree, Fisher, Rowe and Anderson voted aye. Commissioner Oberg dissented.

(503) The next three items were voted on as one item:

In the matter of TOWN OF KEVIN - Docket D96.11.202; The Town of Kevin filed a petition

to pass through a decrease in rates pursuant to MPC's (Docket D96.2.22) gas tracker rate decrease. Final Order No. 5958.

In the matter of TOWN OF SUNBURST - Docket D96.11.203; The Town of Sunburst filed a petition to pass through a decrease in rates pursuant to MPC's (Docket D96.2.22) gas tracker rate decrease. Final Order No. 5959.

In the matter of CUT BANK GAS CO. - Docket D96.11.204; Cut Bank Gas Co. filed a petition to pass through a decrease in rates pursuant to MPC's (Docket D96.2.22) gas tracker rate decrease. Final Order No. 5960.

Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the above listed Final Orders.

Commissioner Fisher

seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.(504) In the matter of MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. - Docket D96.11.183; On November 8, 1996, MD. filed an application seeking authority to issue up to \$50,000,000 of short-term indebtedness. MD. requests the authority to be effective through December 31, 1998. The short-term indebtedness proposed to be issued will either be in the form of ordinary unsecured promissory notes representing bank borrowings and/or in the form of commercial paper. This application is a continuance of the authority granted by the Commission in Docket No. 94.11.51. A default order has been drafted. Commissioner Oberg moved to approve Default Order No. 5955. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(505) In the matter of MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket D96.11.186; On November 14, 1996, MPC filed an application seeking authority to issue up to \$150,000,000 of short-term indebtedness. MPC requests the authority to be effective through December 31, 1998. The short-term indebtedness proposed to be issued will be in the form of a revolving credit and term loan agreement, promissory notes to banks, commercial paper drafts, banker acceptance drafts or such other means as may be deemed advisable. This application is a continuance of the authority granted by the Commission in Docket No. 94.11.55. A default order has been drafted. Commissioner Fisher moved to approve Default Order No. 5956. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(506) In the matter of MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket D96.11.189; On November 15, 1996, MPC filed an application seeking authority to issue up to \$150,000,000 of unsecured long-term debt in the form of medium-term notes. MPC requests the authority to be effective through December 31, 1998. This application is a continuance of the authority granted by the Commission in Docket No. D95.12.181. A default order has been drafted. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve Default Order No. 5957. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation Division

(507) In the matter of TN1825 - Ray Jerrel, Inc., Miles City, Montana requests cancellation of the remaining authority held under PSC No. 845.

Class B - Property between Glendive, Montana and Circle, Montana via Union and Lindsay, Montana. General Commodities from Glendive, Montana to Wolf Point, Montana over Montana Highway No. 20 to Circle, Montana and from Circle, Montana to Wolf Point, Montana over Montana Highway No. 13 serving the intermediate and off-route points of Lindsay, Circle and Vida, Montana. Limitations: Transportation of ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish and garbage is prohibited.

Class B - General Commodities and Property - except commodities in bulk between Lewistown, Montana and Glendive, Montana, over U.S. Highway No. 87 and Montana State Highway No. 20, serving all intermediate points. Limitations: Transportation of ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish, and garbage is prohibited.

Class C - Property as a contract carrier in intrastate service, within the City of Miles City, Montana and to or from points tributary thereto, but within a distance not exceeding one hundred fifty (150) miles in any direction from said city. Limitations: Pickup and delivery on Class "A" routes is prohibited. Transportation of ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish and garbage is prohibited.

Commissioner Oberg moved to cancel PSC No. 845. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(508) In the matter of TN1826 - Helena Unlimited, Inc. dba Last Chance Tours, Helena, Montana request permission to suspend PSC No. 2516 for a six month period, October 15, 1996 to April 15, 1997.

Class A - Persons in the City of Helena, Montana. Limitations: This certificate may not be sold, leased, transferred or assigned.

Class B- Passengers in charter service by means of open-air tour vehicles pulled by replica vintage locomotive-style vehicles or in open-air trolley-style vehicles, within the City of Helena, Montana, and a fifteen (15) mile radius thereof.

Commissioner Anderson moved to suspend PSC No. 2516 for a period of six months. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Laura Calkin
Centralized Services

(509) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of November 25, 1996. Commissioner Fisher

seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(510) In the matter of the approval of the Commission's January, 1997 Calendar; Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the calendar as submitted. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCaffree, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, December 3, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

Commissioner Anderson was attending an EPRI meeting but left his votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Dan Elliott

(511) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the proposed Abandonment Cost Rules; Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the rules as noticed. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed. Commissioners McCaffree, Fisher and Rowe voted aye. Commissioner Oberg abstained. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Mike Lee

(512) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company's rate design case Docket No. D96.3.33; Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the staff draft of a final order approving the rate design stipulation subject to editing and amending paragraph 5 to read

"shall". Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

APPEARANCE
Karen Hammel

(513) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of AT&T and US West Communication's petition for Arbitration - Docket No. D96.11.200; Commissioner Oberg moved to issue a Notice of Arbitration request which states that the Commission will be arbitrator, appoint Karen Hammel as hearing officer and, issue a protective order and a procedural schedule. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye via his proxy to Commissioner Rowe.

APPEARANCE
Karen Hammel, Mike Sheard, Ron Woods

(514) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of consolidating Notice of Resale Agreements filed by Citizens and Montana Communications - Docket Nos. D96.11.198 and D96.11.191; Commissioner Rowe moved to consolidate the Notice of Resale Agreements of Citizens and Montana Communications. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL) At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Friday, December 6, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioner Rowe was ill during this work session, but did give his vote to the Commission Secretary upon his return.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Dan Elliott

(515) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of consideration of pending motions and objections in Montana Power Company's natural gas restructuring case - Docket No. D96.2.22; Commissioner Oberg moved to suspend the procedural order on its own motion for four weeks and directed staff to call an attorney's conference to discuss a possible settlement. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed. Commissioners Oberg, Anderson and Fisher voted aye. Commissioner Rowe voted aye. Commissioner McCaffree dissented.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, December 9, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioners Anderson and Rowe were absent, but left their votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE
Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(516) In the matter of Docket N96.11.196, AT&T Communications filed minor text changes to their Montana Tariff on November 20, 1996. This filing restructures the Operator Service Charges billed to all other calling cards into two (2) separate categories, as calls billed to a Local Exchange Company Calling Card or a Commercial Credit/Charge Card. Commissioner Fisher moved to approve the text changes to AT&T's Montana Tariff. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Rowe and Anderson voted aye.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation Division

(517) In the matter of TN1827, Whitefish Sober Chauffeur Taxi, Inc., Whitefish, Montana requests permission to suspend PSC No. 8235 for a final 6 months, December 19, 1996 to June 19, 1997.

Class B - Passengers and baggage between points in Whitefish, Montana, on the one hand, and the Kalispell bus depot, on the other. Limitations: (1) Carrier is prohibited from operating vehicles with a passenger capacity above eight (8). (2)

Transportation of passengers in limousine service is prohibited.

Commissioner Oberg moved to suspend for the final six months. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Rowe and Anderson voted aye.

(518) In the matter of TN1828, Robert F. Olsen dba Fortman Truck Line, Hamilton, Montana requests cancellation of the remaining, regulated, intrastate authority held under PSC No. 1405.

Class B - Property over and on public highway No. 93 from Missoula, Montana to Idaho-Montana boundary line on the south, serving the off-route points of Stevensville, Montana and Corvallis, Montana. Limitation: Transportation of ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish and garbage prohibited.

Class B - Property between all points and places in Missoula and Ravalli Counties. Limitations: 1) Transportation of acids, chemicals, lime, cement, molasses, liquid animal and poultry feed supplements, petroleum and petroleum products in bulk in tank vehicles is prohibited. 2) Transportation of audit and accounting media, data processing media and business records; film and microfilm (except medical film and x-ray film); valuable papers, non-negotiable securities and bank checks is prohibited. 3) Transportation of Mercer type commodities (as defined in T. E. Mercer and G. E. Mercer Extension - Oil Field Commodities, 74 MCC 459) specifically including water and petroleum and petroleum products to and from all known oil and gas fields and to and from any and all wild cat fields which may be prospected and/or developed for oil and gas in the State of Montana is prohibited. 4) Transportation between Missoula, Montana, and Seeley Lake, Montana, is prohibited.

Commissioner Fisher moved to cancel the remaining, regulated intrastate authority held under PSC No. 1405. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Rowe and Anderson voted aye.

(519) In the matter of TN1829, Marc W. Johnson, Ronan, Montana requests authorization to continue the lease of PSC No. 1448 to Flathead Disposal, Inc., Ronan, Montana for a one year period January 12, 1997 to January 12, 1998.

Class D - Ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish, garbage, organic and inorganic matter within the town of Ronan, Montana, and between all points and places within a fifty (50) mile radius thereof. Limitations: Transportation is prohibited within a three and one half mile (3.5 mile) radius of the junction of U.S. Highway 90 and U.S. Highway 93 (approximately 3.5 miles south of Evaro hill), with the EXCEPTION of movements which originate in that area and terminate in Ronan, Montana, or

originate in Ronan
and terminate in the 3.5 mile radius area.

Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the continuation of the lease of PSC No. 1448 for a period of one year. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Rowe and Anderson voted aye.

(520) In the matter of TN1830, Marc W. Johnson, Ronan, Montana requests authorization to continue the lease of PSC No. 2870 to Dan Tromp, Marc Johnson, Stuart Rubel & Robert McCrea a Partnership dba Mission Valley Disposal, Ronan, Montana for a one year period January 17, 1997 to January 17, 1998.

Class D - Garbage and refuse, authorized to serve an area whose eastern, western and southern boundaries are defined as the arc on the circumference of a 35 mile radius circle whose center originates at Polson, Montana and whose northern boundary is defined as a cord of the 35 mile radius circle running tangent to a 10 mile radius circle whose center originates at Ronan, Montana. Carrier is allowed to transport authorized commodities to certified landfills from territory authorized.

Commissioner Oberg moved to continued the lease of PSC No. 2870 for a period of one year. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Rowe and Anderson voted aye.

(521) In the matter of TN1831, Dan Kautz dba V.I.P. Limousine, Billings, Montana requests an additional 3 months of suspension for PSC No. 8920, November 3, 1996 to February 3, 1997.

Class B - Passengers between all points and places in Yellowstone and Sweetgrass Counties. Limitations: 1) Transportation of Burlington Northern train crews is prohibited. 2) Transportation is limited to five (5) passengers or less per vehicle and further limited to limousine transportation only. 3) Reservations for limousine service must be made at least 24 hours in advance. 4) Transportation as a taxi or jitney is prohibited.

Commissioner Fisher moved to grant the additional three months of suspension for PSC No. 8920. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed 4-0. Commissioner Anderson voted aye. Commissioner Rowe did not leave a vote on this item.

(522) In the matter of Docket T-96.72.OTSC, R. L. Bertolino dba R & M Livestock & Trucking, Billings, Montana has failed to file a 1995 annual report. An Order To Show Cause has been issued and received with no response.

Class C - Feed, household goods, farm machinery and lumber, within a

fifty (50) mile
radius of Plevna, Montana.

Commissioner Oberg moved to cancel PSC No. 1971. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed 4-0. Commissioner Anderson voted aye. Commissioner Rowe did not leave a vote on this item.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt
Centralized Services

(523) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of December 2, 1996. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed 4-0. Commissioner Anderson voted aye. Commissioner Rowe did not leave a vote on this item.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, December 16, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioner Rowe was attending BPA meetings in Portland, Oregon, but left his votes with the Commission Secretary via telephone December 13, 1996.

APPEARANCE
Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(524) In the matter of LINCOLN TELEPHONE COMPANY - Docket N96.11.199; On November 21, 1996, Lincoln Telephone filed to introduce voice mail service. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the application to introduce voice mail service. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Rowe voted aye via proxy to Commissioner Anderson.

(525) In the matter of LINCOLN TELEPHONE COMPANY - Docket N96.11.197; On November 21, 1996, Lincoln Telephone Company, Inc. filed revisions to its tariff which would allow late payment penalties on delinquent accounts. The filing also deletes instrument lease rates which are no longer regulated. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the revisions to the tariff. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Rowe voted aye via proxy to Commissioner Anderson.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation Division

(526) In the matter of Docket T-96.112.PCN - Elaina and Andrew Prince dba Prince Limousine Service, Plentywood, Montana filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Parties have stipulated to the following grant of authority:

Class B - Passengers in limousine service (1) between all points and places in Daniels and Sheridan Counties; and (2) To and from all points and places within Richland, Roosevelt, and Valley Counties, limited to transportation which both originates and terminates in Daniels and/or Sheridan Counties. Limitation: Limousine service which is limited to nine (9) passengers or less.

Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the stipulated grant of authority. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Rowe voted aye.

(527) In the matter of TN1832 - James A. Jones dba Oilfield Maintenance Company, Gillette, Wyoming requests authorization to continue the lease of PSC No. 9297 to Kenneth W. Griffith dba Ken Griffith Excavating, Baker, Montana for one year December 28, 1996 to December 28, 1997.

Class D - Garbage, solid waste, debris between all points and places in Fallon, Carter and Wibaux County.

Commissioner Fisher moved to grant permission to continue to lease PSC No. 9297 for a period of one year. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Rowe voted aye.

(528) In the matter of TN1833 - The Waggoners Trucking, Billings, Montana, PSC No. 772, requests cancellation of their base authority and Sub G.

Class B - Persons, baggage and ski equipment, from Livingston, Montana to the Bridger Bowl Ski Area, Gallatin County, Montana, and return. Limitations: Transportation of persons, baggage and ski equipment between Livingston and Bozeman, Montana is prohibited.

Class B - Household goods (as defined by Commission) from Dillon and points within a radius of 65 miles in any direction from said city to points and places in the State of Montana and from all points and places in the State of Montana to Dillon and points within a radius of 65 miles in any direction from said city.

Commissioner Fisher moved to cancel Base and Sub G authority of PSC No. 772. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Rowe voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, December 17, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioner Rowe was attending BPA meetings in Portland, Oregon and did not participate in this work session. Commissioner Anderson was in Washington, D.C. participating in NARUC interviews and did not participate in this work session.

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel, Ron Woods, Mike Sheard

(529) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket No. D96.9.150 - post hearing consideration of contested issues in the Western Wireless vs. USWC arbitration;

Commissioner Oberg moved to direct staff to draft an order which adopts the Western Wireless position on transportation and termination rates. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Oberg moved to direct staff to draft an order which concludes that March 29, 1996 is the date for reciprocal compensation to begin. In adopting this conclusion, due to questions over jurisdiction the Commission makes the finding, but will not include it in the Ordering section. The Commission further directs that the order be drafted which concludes and orders that the effective date of the arbitrated rate is the date the Commission approves the arbitrated agreement. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Oberg moved to direct staff to draft an order which adopts the USWC position of the use of a 17% administrative factor for US West traffic termination on Western Wireless, but directs the two parties to commence negotiations within six (6) months to further refine such factor. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Oberg moved to direct staff to draft an order which adopts the Western Wireless position on the use of the MTA definition of local service but adopting USWC's 5% adjustment factor. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Commission deferred until 8:30 a.m. on Friday, December, 20, 1996 consideration of the final issue which involves end office or tandem designation and compensation of Western's MTSO.

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel, Will Rosquist

(530) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Flathead Valley Business Association complaint against PTI and their request for an order - Docket No. D96.9.152; Commissioner Oberg moved to defer until the week of January 6, 1997, consideration of the request from FVBA for an interim order. Said deferral will allow for PSC consideration of the Digitrex docket which may have implications on the motion. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCaffree, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, December 17, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioner Rowe was attending BPA meetings in Portland, Oregon and did not vote on the following item. Commissioner Anderson was in Washington, D.C. participating in NARUC interviews and but left his vote with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Laura Calkin, Dan Elliott, Robin McHugh

(531) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of out-of-state travel; Commissioner Fisher moved to approve out-of-state travel for Mike Lee to attend the Winter NARUC Meetings in Washington, D.C. in February. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCaffree, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, December 17, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioner Rowe was attending BPA meetings in Portland, Oregon but left his vote via telephone December 13, 1996 with the Commission Secretary. Commissioner Anderson was in Washington, D.C. participating in NARUC interviews but left his vote with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Joel Tierney

(532) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company's Gas Tracking - Docket No. D96.2.22; Commissioner Oberg moved to issue a Notice of Commission Action taking administrative notice of a clerical error in its recent gas tracking order and finding that the MPC identified calculation will be considered and used in the next gas tracking period. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, December 19, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Dan Elliott, Robin McHugh

(533) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of its budget and its staff organization;
Commissioner Oberg moved to transfer Transportation Division Employees Vicki Nelson and Bonnie Lorang to the Compliance, Tariff's and Public Information Bureau of the Utility Division. The Compliance, Tariff's and Public Information Bureau will submit a work plan and goals and objectives for 1997 to Dan Elliott, Administrator of the Utility Division and to the Commission within 30 days. The vacant field enforcement position will remain vacant.
Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Fisher moved to amend the previous motion to include a one grade upgrade for Tina Shorten. Motion failed for lack of a second and vote reverts to original motion.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Friday, December 20, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair

Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel, Mike Sheard, Ron Woods

(534) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Western Wireless vs. U W West Communications - Arbitration for Interconnection Compensation - Docket No. D96.9.150; Commissioner Anderson moved to direct staff to draft an order which adopts the USWC position on the issue of whether Western Wireless should be compensated at the tandem switching rate or end office rate. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed. Commissioners McCaffree, Fisher, Anderson and Oberg voted aye. Commissioner Rowe dissented.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, December 23, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(535) In the matter of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. - Docket N96.12.205;
On

December 3, 1996, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an application for authority to implement revisions to the Selective Testing Plan for Watthour Meters. MDU is proposing a new random testing system using Military Standard 414. A memo concerning this filing was routed last week. Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the application. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation Division

(536) In the matter of TN1835 - Mark L. Foos dba Northwest Passage, Billings, Montana requests permission to lease PSC No. 9332 to Silver Eagle Shuttle, Inc., Billings, Montana for one year, December 23, 1996 through December 23, 1997.

Class B - Passengers and their personal belongings between all points and places in the State of Montana. Limitations: (1) Transportation is restricted to that provided by vehicles with a rated seating capacity of eight or less. (2) Transportation must originate or terminate in Yellowstone County. (3) No passenger transportation services shall originate or terminate within Fergus, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Toole, Treasure, Stillwater, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties, with the exception of Fort Smith, Montana and a fifty (50) mile radius thereof. (4) Transportation utilizing luxury limousines or motor coach (bus) is prohibited. (5) Transportation of railroad personnel is prohibited. (6) Transportation movements which both originate and terminate within Billings, Montana and a fifty (50) mile radius thereof are prohibited. (7) Transportation may not originate within Flathead County.

Commissioner Rowe moved to grant permission to lease PSC No. 9332 for the period of one year. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(537) In the matter of TN1836 - Mergenthaler's Transfer & Storage Co., Helena, Montana requests permission to continue to lease PSC No. 9377 to the City of Helena for a one year period, January 1, 1997 to January 1, 1998.

Class D - Ashes, waste, trash, rubbish and garbage in the City of Helena, Montana, and to and from points within a radius of 35 miles of Helena, Montana. Carrier is allowed to transport authorized commodities to certified landfills from territory authorized. Limitations: Transportation between points served by rail carrier or by a Class "A" motor carrier for distances beyond the radius of ten (10) miles from the City of Helena, is prohibited.

Commissioner Anderson moved to grant permission to continue to lease PSC No. 9377 for a period of one year. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Laura Calkin
Centralized Services

(538) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Fisher moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the weeks of December 9 and December 16, 1996. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(539) In the matter of the approval of the Commission's calendar; Commissioner Fisher moved to approve the February, 1997 calendar with the addition of the legislative breaks and transmittal date. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, December 23, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE
Denise Peterson, Dave Burchett

(540) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Mountain Water (Superior Division) - Docket No. D96.6.96; Commissioner Rowe moved to approve an order, subject to editing, granting the request for interim rate relief contemplating a February hearing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Denise Peterson, Dan Elliott

(541) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company's WAPA Overcharge - Docket No. D96.8.143; Commissioner Anderson moved to direct staff to draft an order consistent with the staff recommendation (« in 1996 and « in 1997). Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel, Ron Woods, Mike Sheard

(542) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Western Wireless vs. US West Communication's Arbitration - Docket No. D96.9.150; Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the Arbitration Order No. 5949b subject to editing. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson

(543) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company's Natural Gas Case - Docket No. D96.2.22; Commissioner Oberg moved to direct the staff to inform the parties the Commission will schedule a work session on January 12, 1996 to receive a report on the status of negotiations and consider lifting the procedural order stay. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Mike Lee

(544) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company's Delay Light Rate case - Docket No. D96.3.33; Commissioner Rowe moved to issue a Notice of Commission Action granting an MPC motion for an approximate one month delay of filing electric lighting tariffs. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, December 23, 1996, the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Chair
Dave Fisher, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Kate Whitney, Mike Sheard

(545) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Extended Area Service - Dockets D95.10.146 and D95.10.147; Commissioner Fisher moved to direct staff to draft an order which approves EAS, the stipulated agreement entered into by USWC and MCC, a 2.55 postage stamp rate which certain protections for switching without penalty and directing USWC to use every means of communicating new pricing options to the public. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion. Commissioner Anderson then moved to table the motion. Commissioner Fisher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Anderson moved to direct staff to schedule an EAS stipulation presentation. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel, Ron Woods, Mike Sheard

(546) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of AT&T vs. USWC arbitration - Docket No. D96.12.200; Commissioner Oberg moved to issue a Notice of Commission Action on a motion from USWC as outlined by staff attorney granting and denying the motion in part. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Dan Elliott, Denise Peterson, Robin McHugh

(547) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Electric Industry Restructuring and various legislative developments - Docket No. D96.12.206; Commissioner Fisher moved to issue Protective Order No. 5963. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)